

George Washington to William Heath, December 28, 1776, The Writings of George Washington from the Original Manuscript Sources, 1745-1799. John C. Fitzpatrick, Editor.

To MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HEATH

Head Quarters, December 28, 1776.

Dear Sir: Since I had the pleasure of informing you Yesterday of our success at Trenton, I have received advice that Count Donnop with the remainder of the Enemy's Army, immediately upon the news, decamped, and was on his Retreat towards South Amboy; on hearing this, Colo. Cadwallader and Genl. Ewing¹ passed the River with the Troops under their command, and Genl. Mifflin will follow this day, with a considerable Body of Militia from Pennsylvania, from whence large Reinforcements are coming in. I purpose to go over myself, with the whole of the Continental Troops as soon as they are refreshed and recovered of their late Fatigue. These added together, will make our force very respectable. I have wrote to Genl. McDougall and Genl. Maxwell who are at Morris Town, and have desired them to collect as large a Body of Militia as they possibly can, and whether the Enemy advance or retreat, harrass them on Flank and Rear. If they cannot be brought to that, to keep them embodied, till they are joined by our regular Troops. Things being in this Situation, I think a fair Opportunity is offered of driving the Enemy entirely from, or at least to, the extremity of the province of Jersey. I would therefore have you advance as rapidly as the Season will admit, with the Eastern Militia, by the way of Hackensack, and proceed downwards till you hear from me; I dont think there is the least

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danger of the Enemy's making any move towards the Highlands at this Season of the Year, that they cannot do it by Water is most certain. I am &c.²

¹he draft gives their force as 1,500, which was crossed out; Ewing's brigade was stated to be 600 and Mifflin was to cross with 1,500. ¹hese figures were crossed out, doubtless from motives of prudence, to guard against the information miscarrying to the enemy.
²he draft is in the writing of Zench Zilghman.